

Frantz Brickhouse  
AL-111-C-126  
North of Rocky Gap Road  
mid nineteenth century

William Frantz was the son of Joseph Frantz who was a tanner, a farmer, and a politician. Born in 1809, William received the traditional rural education of "labor and industry" on his fathers' farm and at the family tannery. After working at a grist mill in Cumberland as a young man William built this large brick farmhouse near Rocky Gap. Later he sold the farm to his son-in-law and moved to another farm on Valley Road near Cumberland. Frantz Brickhouse is one of several brickhouses in north central Allegany County during the mid nineteenth century with locally rare flemish bond brickwork on the main facade.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Frantz Brick House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North off Rocky Gap Road

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

☒ VICINITY OF Cumberland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

MD

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

H. Murell Kline

Telephone #: 738-8946

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wiley Ford

☐ VICINITY OF

W.VA 26767

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 242

Folio #: 55

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AL-III-C-126

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE****"Franz Brick House"**

The Frantz Brick House is located off to the north of Rocky Gap Road approximately four miles east of Cumberland.

The building is originally an "L" shaped structure five bays wide by two and a half stories tall. Wall construction is of brick laid in Flemish bond on the main (eastern) facade and in American common bond in five to one random variations elsewhere.

The building rests on a low foundation of random ashlar stone with a plain water table. Eaves consist of a box cornice, soffit, bed mould, and returns on the gabled ends. The gable flank roof is of ribbed tin.

Three original brick chimneys are located inside the gable ends. The only chimney remaining in good condition corbeled.

The main entrance in the center of the eastern facade has a five light transom with a wooden lintel. Most windows are missing, but two remaining window are of three over one lights and one over one lights, all pegged with wooden lintels and slipsills.

A shed roofed porch with a ribbed tin roof is located in the southwestern corner of the "L". It is supported by square wooden posts and has a plain wooden railing.

The interior of the house is arranged in a central hall plan.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Frantz was the son of Joseph Frantz, a tanner, farmer, and politician. Joseph served as a County Commissioner and Justice of the Peace. <sup>(1)</sup> In 1835 he was elected to a term in the State Legislature. <sup>(2)</sup>

Born in 1809, William received the traditional rural education of "labor and industry" on his father's farm and at the family tannery. Once he was twenty-one, William went to work at a grist mill near Cumberland. Within a few years he had married the daughter of a locally prominent mill owner and bought a farm near Rocky Gap. William was apparently a successful farmer because after "living on and enjoying his fine farm at Rocky Gap"... he moved to ..."his other farm on the Valley Road." <sup>(3)</sup>

The Frantz farm house is one of several similar farmhouses built around the mid 1800's across north central Allegany County. They all have the same "L" shape and are built with the locally rare Flemish bond brickwork on the main facades. Although structurally sound, neglect has caused some deterioration of this fine reminder of the prosperity once enjoyed in the rural areas of Allegany County.

- (1) Jacob Brown, Miscellaneous Writings (Cumberland, Md. J. J. Miller, 1896)P. 173
- (2) Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co. 1971) P. 338
- (3) Brown, Miscellaneous Writings, P. 175

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Brown, Jacob, Miscellaneous Writings (Cumberland, Md., J.J. Miller, 1896) P. 173
- Lowdermilk, Will H., History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co. 197. P. 338 - P. 175

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 183.6 acres**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION****LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

February 23, 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3-33 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH

Frantz Brick House  
AL-111-C-126

Allegany County Deed: Liber 242, Folio 55  
Grantee: Nora Viola and H. Murell Kline  
Grantor: United States of America  
Notes: Quit Claim Deed

Date: May 6, 1952  
Consideration: \$7,250

Allegany County Deed: Liber 235, Folio 255  
Grantee: United States of America  
Grantor: John C. Heavner, et ux

Date: September 17, 1951  
Consideration: \$7,250

Allegany County Deed: Liber 221, Folio 304  
Grantee: John C. Heavner, et ux  
Grantor: Arthur E. Light

Date: July 13, 1948

Allegany County Deed: Liber 196, Folio 126  
Grantee: Arthur E. Light  
Grantor: William A. Gunter, trustee

Date: October 10, 1942

Allegany County Deed: Liber 171, Folio 443  
Grantee: William A. Gunter, trustee  
Grantor: Arthur E. Light, et ux

Date: June 23, 1930

Allegany County Deed: Liber 142, Folio 600  
Grantee: Arthur E. Light  
Grantor: Blue Willison

Date: March 14, 1923

Allegany County Deed: Liber 100, Folio 547  
Grantee: Blue Willison  
Grantor: Lycurgus F. Gurley

Date: March 20, 1907

Allegany County Deed: Liber 32, Folio 185  
Grantee: Lycurgus F. Gurley  
Grantor: William E. Frantz et ux

Date: April 9, 1870  
Consideration: \$4,000

INVENTORY NO: AL-III-C-126

DATE: 8/25/79

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: FRANTZ BRICK HOUSE

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: NORTH OFF ROCKY GAP ROAD

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: EAST

NAME OF OWNER: H. MURELL KLINE

ADDRESS: WILEY FORD W.VA. 26767

STORIES: 1( ) 2(☒) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5(☒) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) "L" SHAPED

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- EAST FACADE
- ( ) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)  
(☒) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. 5x1 & RANDOM ELSEWHERE  
( ) STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated  
( ) LOG  
( ) OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone RANDOM ASHLAR

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: WOODEN LINTELS AND SLIPSILLS  
1/1(☒) 2/2( ) 6/6( ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other(☒)  
pegged(☒) nailed( ) wide( ) narrow( ) mitred( ) pediment( )

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: Center Eastern facade 5 light transom wooden lintel  
HARDWARE: original(☒) replaced( )  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

Box  
CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) RETURNS ON GABLED ENDS  
original(☒) replaced( ) rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin. asphalt RIBBED original(☒) replaced( )

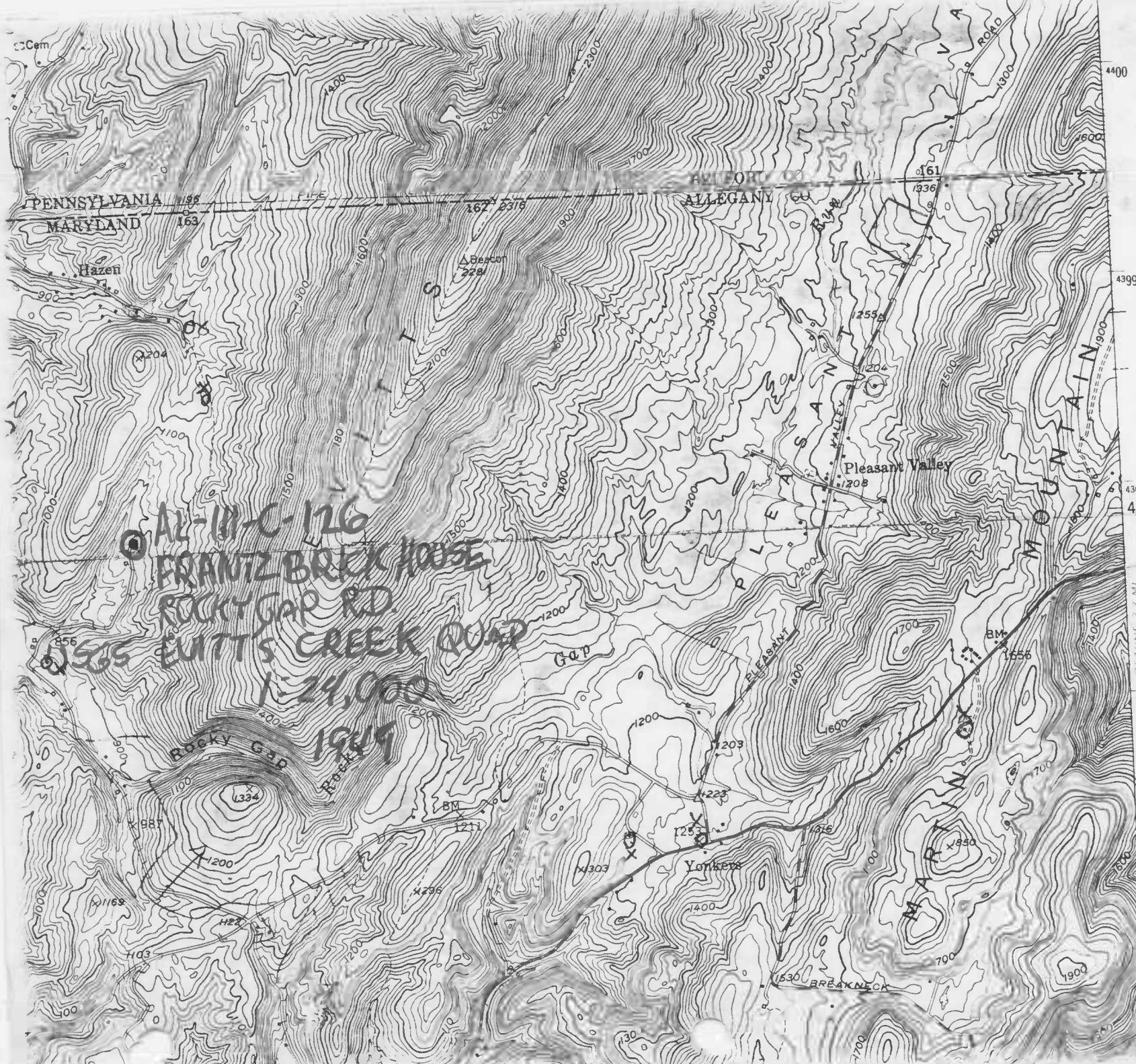
PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(☒) hip( ) gable( )

CHIMNEYS: Number: 3 Brick(☒) Stone( ) Corbeled(☒) original(☒) replaced( )  
Location: Flush end( ) Inside end(☒) Outside end( ) Central( ) Interior( )

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE: VACANT  
SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE  
DATE CONSTRUCTED:  
CONDITION: FAIR



Cem

PENNSYLVANIA

MARYLAND

ALLEGANY CO

Hazen

Beacon

Pleasant Valley

AL-11-C-126  
FRANTZ BREX HOUSE  
ROCKY GAP RD.  
EUTTS CREEK QUAD  
1:24,000  
1949

Rocky Gap

Yonkers

BREAKNECK

MOUNTAIN

PLIMSTONE 3.5 MI  
HAGERSTOWN 5.6 MI

STONE  
LINE





AL-III-C-126

FRANTZ BRICK FARMHOUSE

N. OFF ROCKY GAP ROAD

near Cumberland, Md.

David A. Dorsey

8/25/78

Northeast



AL-III-C-126

FRANTZ BRICK FARMHOUSE

N. OFF ROCKY GAP ROAD.

NEAR CUMBERLAND

DAVID A. DORSEY

8/25/78

Southwest